20. Sinking Fund:—It is under contemplation to provide a Sinking Fund for the purpose of paying off the capital liability of Rs. 118 lacs referred to supra. In view to the largeness of the amount, and the circumstance that the State will not be able to put by for the purpose more than two lacs of rupees per year, it will take 32 years to pay away the debt.

Devaswoms and Charities.

21. In regard to the important subject of Devaswoms and Charities, you may remember that, in my address last year, I stated that the report of Mr. Ramachandra Row was engaging the consideration of His Highness' Government. Mr. Ramachandra Row's report related to (1) State Charities, (2) Devaswoms and (3) Purificatory Ceremonies. Government have since passed final orders on the first part, *viz.*, State Charities, so far as the Mofussil Oottupuras are concerned. Out of 41 Mofussil Oottus, 8 have been closed as unnecessary. The remaining Oottus have been ordered to be maintained but with their *padivus* revised. The items of expenditure really belonging to the head of 'Oottupuras' were separated from those which, though unconnected with the same, were yet being incurred under that head. The items under the former head were carefully scrutinised so as to retain only what was absolutely necessary. A scale *in money* for all the items of expenditure was fixed, so as to bring the whole thing under strict budget control. The details were worked out for all the minor heads under the major head 'State Charities', except the Agrasala. The revised *padivus* give an annual saving of about a lac of rupees. In revising the scale of expenditure, Government have taken adequate note of possible variations in the prices of rice and other provisions. The revised *padivus* for the Mofussil Oottus came into operation from the beginning of 1085. The experience of now over four months has shown that the revised *padivus* have not been under-estimated. The only branch of expenditure which remains to be looked into, under the head of 'State Charities', is the Agrasala, the principal feeding institution at the Capital. The *padivu* of this institution will be examined at an early date. And after that is done, the reorganisation of the Devaswoms will be taken up; and lastly, the revision of the *padivus* for the Purificatory Ceremonies.

22. The total expenditure on account of 'Devaswoms' and 'Charities' in 1084 was Rs. 11,04,000 and Rs. 6,45,000 respectively, as against Rs. 9,65,000 and Rs. 6,33,000 in the previous year. The increase of expenditure under 'Devaswoms' was due to the increase in the prices paid for paddy and other provisions.

Education.

23. Director of Public Instruction:— A great deal of attention was paid during the year to the work of the Educational Department. The Department was placed under the control of a Director of Public Instruction. The number of Inspectors' Ranges was reduced from three to two, an Inspectress being however appointed to look after all the Girls' Schools in the State. The strong points in the educational system of Travancore are the compact nature of the area and population, the extent to which education is already directly in the hands of Government, and what is most important of all, the remarkable anxiety of the people generally for the

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